

Grey House
(The Gill House)
1007 McDonough Street
Richmond, Virginia

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Major Eugene Bradbury, District Officer, A.I.A.
210 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia

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GILL HOUSE
1007 McDonough Street
Richmond, Virginia

Owner: Gill Holding Corporation, Dill Road, Richmond, Virginia

Date of Erection: According to tax records, before 1825.
Mrs. Mary Weisiger, sister of David M. Pulliam, believed the
date of erection to be between 1836-37.

Builder: If erected in 1836-37, David M. Pulliam. If built
before 1825, Henry Moody.

Architect:

Present Condition: The house was evidently built before streets
were laid out as the front faces the side yard and the end of
the house is towards the street. A very ordinary porch has
been added on the end facing the street and an addition added
at the rear. What was originally the front entrance and porch
remain as well as the mantels and stairs. The building generally
is in a poor state of preservation. Permission was obtained to
measure only the original front door entrance and porch, of which
one drawing sheet was made. The original sash have been replaced
with four light sash.

Number of Stories: The building is two stories

Materials of Construction: Foundation walls of brick with frame
above covered with weatherboards, beaded. The roof is covered
with metal.

Other Existing Records: In 1825, lots 139, 140, 153 and 154
in Manchester were recorded in the tax records of Chesterfield
County as belonging to Alexander Archer. The improvements on
the lots were valued at \$3,500.

In 1819, lots 139, 140, 153 and 154 were recorded in the
Chesterfield Deed Books as follows:

A deed records the property as being conveyed with all the im-
provements thereon from Edward Cunningham and Richard Anderson,
trustees for Thomas Tredway, James Gray, Young Pankey, Alexander
Kerr and James Caskie, to Henry Moody.

Moody sold the property to Alexander Archer under deed dated
October 1825. In this year the taxes show enough valuation
to establish the fact that a dwelling house had been built.

Additional Data: In Mr. Willie C. Pulliam's letter in regard to the house now known as 1007 McDonough Street, Richmond, Virginia, he says:

"This house was originally located on a block of land bounded by Tenth, Eleventh, McDonough and Semmes Streets, and was located some distance back from the northern line of McDonough Street, and originally fronted towards the James River. When I was a boy it was the only building in that block and it had a large garden in back of it surrounded with a box hedge.

"I find from the records that this property was conveyed on January 6, 1848, by Peter B. Wills, Executor of Alexander Archer to John B. Clopton. Alexander Archer owned the property a number of years before his death. John B. Clopton, several years after he purchased it, conveyed this property to David M. Pulliam, who married Sarah J. Clopton, one of the daughters of John B. Clopton. John B. Clopton was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and was known as John Bacon Clopton, he having been descended through one of his ancestral lines from Nathaniel Bacon, known as the first Virginia Rebel. He died about the year 1855 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

"David M. Pulliam died about 1857 and the property went to his widow and only child, Paul Pulliam.

"I was told by Mrs. Mary Weisiger, who died about eight years ago and who lived to be 96 years of age, that David M. Pulliam built this house and that she thought the house was about one hundred years old. The house used to be called 'The Clopton Hill House', although David M. Pulliam lived in the same until his death.

"I have checked the Land Booke back to 1845 and the improvements are noted on the Land Books at that time and I have checked the Deed Books to around 1800 and all deeds conveying this property refer to the improvements thereon, and I am satisfied there was some kind of a dwelling house of considerable size on this property for years, judging from the assessed value of the improvements on this land, but I am not satisfied that Mrs. Weisiger was right in saying that David M. Pulliam built the house, because if he did so, it would not have been one hundred years of age when she died. He may have taken the old house on the premises and remodeled or rebuilt it, at approximately the same location as the old building, and my own candid opinion is that is what he did.

"From information that I have, I would say this house was built or rebuilt somewhere between 1848 and 1850.

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"David M. Pulliam was my grandfather's oldest brother. At the time of his death he had a place of business in Richmond, but lived on the southside known as the city of Manchester, now a part of Richmond, Virginia."

Bibliography:

Deed Books of Chesterfield County, Virginia, filed at Chesterfield Courthouse.

Land Tax Books of Chesterfield County, Virginia, filed in the Archives of the Virginia State Library.

Mr. Willis C. Pulliam's letter, dated January 12, 1937.
Address: Attorney-at-Law, American Bank and Trust Company Building, 16th and Hull Streets, Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia Thompson
Historian

Approved: January 15, 1937

Eugene Bradbury
MAJOR EUGENE BRADBURY, A.I.A.
DISTRICT OFFICER
District of Virginia

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Rev. Feb. 5, 1937 T.W.